

## CLAIMS

It is claimed:

1. Configuration for  $n$  consumers of electric energy, of which  $m$  consumers are supplied simultaneously with energy, where  $m < n$ , **characterized by**
  - a) a modular energy supply (100) comprising  $k$  energy modules (16 to 35),
  - b) a control (36), which connects as many modular energy supplies (16 to 35) with one consumer (1 to 15) as are required for this consumer (1 to 15) to receive the power it requires.
2. Configuration as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in** that the consumers (1 to 15) are sputter installations, with each cathode of a sputter installation having its own arc management.
3. Configuration as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in** that the electric energy is realized by DC current.
4. Configuration as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in** that the electric energy is realized by AC current.
5. Configuration as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in** that the electric energy is realized by pulsed DC current.
6. Configuration as claimed in claims 1, 2 and 4, **characterized in** that each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.
7. Configuration as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in** that the consumers (1 to 15) are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes to which one pole reversal unit is assigned.
8. Configuration as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in** that the consumers (1 to 15) are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes, of which the one cathode is connected to a pole of an AC voltage and the other cathode to the other pole of this AC voltage.
9. Configuration as claimed in claim 5, **characterized in** that a pulse generator is assigned to each cathode.